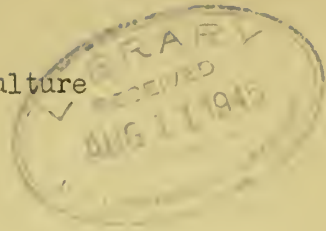


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.914
ASF733

Food Information Series
United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Information
Washington, D. C.



No.23

June 21, 1943

Subject: Transmittal of radio broadcast on 1944 farm machinery program
Distribution: State War Board Members, information workers
Suggested Use: Background for local press and radio releases on farm machinery program

Enclosed are copies of a broadcast given Tuesday, June 15, over the National Farm and Home Hour by M. Lee Marshall, Deputy Administrator of the War Food Administration. Information in this script outlines the farm machinery production program for the year beginning July 1, 1943, and the measures that are being provided to assure manufacture of machinery schedules.

THE 1944 FARM PROGRAM

Broadcast by M. Lee Marshall, Deputy Administrator of War Food Administration, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Chief of Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture portion of National Farm and Home hour, Tuesday, June 15, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

- Kadderly: In Washington, this trip, we bring you news of the farm machinery program for 1944. With us in the studio is M. Lee Marshall, who recently joined the staff of the War Food Administration as Deputy Administrator in charge of the Office of Materials and Facilities. This office carries out all food administration programs connected with food processing facilities and farm production supplies. Lee, are you prepared to say how much machinery farmers will get in 1944?
- Marshall: In general yes. The War Production Board issued an order at noon today that provides for production of new machinery at an average of 80 percent of the 1940 production.
- Kadderly: An average of 80 percent of 1940.
- Marshall: And 1940 was a big year in the manufacture of farm machinery. By starting the new manufacturing year three months earlier—on July 1 instead of October 1 as before—we will be finishing out production under this year's program, and we will be making the additional harvesting machinery authorized by WPB some time ago. So, all in all, scheduled machinery production is somewhat above the 80 percent level. Also, the new order removes any restrictions on the manufacture of repair parts.
- Kadderly: This is news of the best kind, Lee, and quite a different story compared to this year's output of machinery.
- Marshall: Quite different, Wallace. This year we had only 40 percent of 1940 production. We can all feel very much encouraged about the farm machinery picture. The War Food Administration has had the full cooperation of the War Production Board in working out the new machinery program. True, we've had some pretty difficult farm machinery problems, but we have to remember that the farm machinery industry was producing war goods even before Pearl Harbor. After Pearl Harbor, this industry stepped up its program of "beating plowshares into swords." We had to do that to get tanks, planes, guns and ships to carry the war to the enemy's doorsteps. None of us regret that. It has meant less machinery than the farmers wanted—and needed—but we have come a long way in war production, and now we can follow the logical development of our war program to produce more machinery for growing the food we need.
- Kadderly: And naturally, our food needs ~~had a great~~ deal to do with shaping the new machinery program.
- Marshall: Yes, they did.
- Kadderly: One of the questions farmers will be wondering about, I'm sure, is how manufacturers are going to get materials to build machinery. To put it another way, the manufacturers are authorized to make the machinery, what assurance do manufacturers have of getting steel and other critical metals?

- Marshall: As I said a moment ago, Wallace, War Food Administration and WPB have cooperated fully in drawing up the new program. That goes for arrangements for getting materials to manufacturers, also. In the first place, the new machinery order has been issued about four months earlier than the one which governed machinery production this year. And WPB not only has allocated sufficient steel to balance our program during the next three months—July, August and September—but has authorized advance allocations for the three remaining quarters in the farm machinery year. WPB, also, has said that special measures will be taken when necessary to insure delivery of steel from mills to farm machinery and equipment manufacturers in time for the factories to make machinery and get it delivered to farmers to meet seasonal needs.
- Kadderly: What rating will farm machinery carry under the WPB order?
- Marshall: A rating of AA-2, the highest given to any civilian product, is extended to farm machinery. The new machinery order of WPB also will make it possible for the larger manufacturers to get back into full production. At the same time, small manufacturers are authorized to produce machinery at 100 percent of their 1941 output.
- Kadderly: Those facts certainly point to more machinery for farmers.
- Marshall: Definitely. We also see relief from a bottleneck that has been pretty bothersome this year. I refer to component parts—magnetos, carburetors, bushings, bearings and many other parts. These items have been hard to get, and most manufacturers get them from other manufacturers to install on machinery as it comes off the production line. There are some 3,000 parts to a tractor, and when you can't get bearings, for example, you just can't finish making the tractor. The War Production Board has now taken special measures to assure adequate production of such parts.
- Kadderly: That should be a big help.....Lee, a while back—several weeks ago—we had news that special authority had been granted for the manufacture of more harvesting machinery. Any progress to report on that production?
- Marshall: Well, reports from manufacturers indicate that they are doing everything possible to produce the harvesting machinery scheduled in the supplementary program approved some time ago. This provides for 9,530 combines, 4,460 corn pickers and 2,000 pick-up hay balers. We can't say just when every machine will be out, but we have reasonable assurance that most of this equipment will be ready for use this year. In fact, we are putting special emphasis on production of harvesting equipment during the quarter beginning July 1. Following that, the emphasis will be on planting and tillage machinery farmers will need next spring.
- Kadderly: Sounds as if things are pretty well set for machinery production in the year ahead.

Marshall: I believe we have an encouraging situation, Wallace, and I want to assure every farmer that we shall do our utmost to provide the machinery he needs. Of course, we can't expect to have all we want of all kinds of machinery. In a war you don't ever have all you want of everything. The machinery program is geared to our war food requirements, and we shall do the best we can to meet those requirements. In addition to what has already been done, the farm machinery industry has reported that it has manpower and manufacturing facilities sufficient to handle all and more of the machinery scheduled during the new manufacture year. With full cooperation between the government agencies concerned and the industry, I am sure we can make the grade.

Kadderly: Lee, there is one question that will be in the minds of every farmer who wants a new machine, and that is: When will I be able to buy this new machinery?

Marshall: About all I can say is that we have reasonable assurance of getting the machines in time for seasonal needs. Farmers can not expect to see all this new machinery in their dealer's stockrooms and warehouses right after July 1. Many details and arrangements have to be worked out. It takes considerable time to get such an extensive program underway. The steel has to be delivered and parts manufactured. Transportation isn't as fast as it was during peace time. But in spite of the problems the outlook is good.

Kadderly: And farmers can make good use of this new machinery.

Marshall: We know they will, Wallace. And we know that farmers are doing a tremendous food production job with the machinery they already have. They've been keeping their machinery repaired and in good running condition. And they are getting extra use of it by sharing it with their neighbors, through sharing pools and neighborhood lending. Farmers have always done this, and they are helping bring victory closer by expanding these neighborhood practices. I want to make it clear that the War Food Administration is urging that farmers maintain their existing equipment at the highest possible rate of efficiency and to spread its use to the fullest extent practical. Incidentally, next Thursday the food administration is holding a meeting in Omaha where officials of nine wheat states will discuss ways and means of getting fuller use of custom-operated harvesting machinery. With the increased production scheduled for next year, and the measures taken by farmers to use their equipment to the maximum, I am confident that we can lick the farm machinery problem and at the same time make some pretty healthy strides in winning the battle of food.

Kadderly: A battle that we must win. Farm and Home friends, in this report of good news about farm machinery.....news of prospects for much more machinery in the year ahead.....you have heard M. Lee Marshall, Deputy Administrator of the War Food Administration.

219

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO